

Regional Law  
Safety & Justice  
Committee



**REGIONAL LAW SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 26, 2016**

7:15 – 9:00 A.M.

Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

**AGENDA**

Theme: Gangs and Legislative Update

- **Coffee and Networking:** Beginning at 7:15 am
- **Introduce Vice Chair Lorinda Youngcourt**
- **Comprehensive Gang Model:** Seattle Police Department - Lt. Marc Garth-Green; Center for Children & Youth Justice - Mahogany Villars and Anica Stieve
- **Legislative Update:** King County – Mac Nicholson; City of Seattle – Rebecca Johnson; Sound Cities Association – Ellie Wilson-Jones
- **Presentation Ideas for 2017:** RLSJC Chair Robert Merner

**Next Steering Committee Meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting is January 26 from 9:00 to 10:00, immediately after the full committee meeting in the Bertha Knight Landes Room. If you have topic suggestions for the full committee, please forward to any of the contacts below, or plan to attend this steering committee meeting.

**Next Full Committee Meeting**

The next full Committee Meeting is **Thursday, February 23, 2016** in the Bertha Knight Landes Room in Seattle City Hall. Meeting topics will include a presentation on Data Driven Prosecution.

**Committee Contacts:**

**Chair:**

Robert Merner  
Assistant Chief, Seattle Police  
Department  
610 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

(206) 386-0061  
robert.merner@seattle.gov

**Vice-Chair:**

Lorinda Youngcourt  
King County Public Defender  
401 5th Ave Ste 0213  
Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 296-7662  
lorinda.youngcourt@kingcounty.gov

**Staff:**

Elly Slakie  
Executive Analyst  
Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget  
401 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 810  
Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 263-1543  
elly.slakie@kingcounty.gov

- **Comprehensive Gang Model:** Seattle Police Department - Lt. Marc Garth-Green; Center for Children & Youth Justice - Mahogany Villars and Anica Stieve

Mahogany Villars and Anica Stieve from the Center for Children & Youth Justice explained the project, which utilizes multidisciplinary teams to address gang and group violence. Lt. Marc Garth-Green explained the law enforcement role, which is as a partner, not the lead agency. The program has operated in suburban King County since 2011 and began expanded efforts in 2016, with a Seattle LINC (Leadership, Intervention, and Change) and a regional approach.

The model uses a third party community assessment, as well as two years of law enforcement data, to better understand the problem and design effective intervention. Seattle's LINC is a multidisciplinary team that facilitated information sharing among service providers and community groups to improve interventions and leverage resources. Having participants who know the youth is crucial to the model's success.

The presenters emphasized that the common understanding of "gang" is often not an accurate representation of the group violence the team combats. Referrals may come from criminal justice agencies or school and community entities, though most referrals come from Juvenile Probation Councilors. The team meets weekly to determine eligibility and to develop and monitor intervention plans. The model assesses the larger context and family situation. Partnerships with cities and coordination between service providers is a core component of this model/intervention.

RLSJC members had questions on the effectiveness of the program, partnerships with schools, and housing. The model has been evaluated in other jurisdictions and found to be successful. Evaluation of the local program is ongoing, but will take time to show outcomes. Schools are part of the multidisciplinary team and school social workers sit at the intervention table to address issues like truancy. The team assists with finding housing when it comes up as an issue, but does not directly provide housing or have a global approach.

For further detail see the handouts and the group's PowerPoint presentation.

- **Legislative Update:** King County – Mac Nicholson; City of Seattle – Rebecca Johnson; Sound Cities Association – Ellie Wilson-Jones

Representatives from King County, the City of Seattle, and the Sound Cities Association explained those jurisdictions' legislative agendas and described issues of note related to law, safety, and justice.

The representatives agree that the session will be challenging, as it is a long session and the primary priority is writing the budget. Both houses have narrow majorities and the McCleary decision has no clear funding mechanism. Additionally, several members have been hired by the Trump administration, which will slow progress.

Despite these challenges, there are some public safety policies with bipartisan support.

The representatives pointed out bills related to raising the property tax limit, homelessness, mental health, the Use of Deadly Force Task Force recommendations, sexual assault, gun responsibility, and legal financial responsibility bills as items to watch. There is also more Republican support for ban the box than in the past.

RLSJC members asked about the tax increase under population growth plus inflation. There would be a hard cap of 5% increase and recent years' inflation plus population is less than that.

For further information, see handouts from each

- **Presentation Ideas for 2017:** RLSJC Chair Robert Merner

Chief Merner encouraged members to bring up ideas for future presentations, either with the group or by contacting the Steering Committee. Ideas included:

- The full range of alternatives to juvenile prosecution and what can be implemented by cities
- Discussion of best practices for providing services for people with communication difficulties
- Data driven prosecution
- Disproportionality, particularly in regards to juvenile populations